

**INTERVENTION de la ROUMANIE,
présentée par Son Excellence Monsieur Adrian CIOROIANU,
Ambassadeur, Délégué permanent auprès de l'UNESCO,
lors du Débat de politique générale de la 40e Conférence générale de l'UNESCO**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence générale,

Monsieur le Président du Conseil exécutif,

Madame la Directrice générale,

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je tiens tout d'abord à exprimer le support de la délégation de la Roumanie pour l'ensemble de objectifs de la 40^e session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, qui reflètent les priorités de notre organisation et des Etats Membres, dans un contexte global très complexe du point de vue stratégique et politique.

Je saisis cette opportunité pour exprimer la satisfaction envers le projet de Programme et de Budget pour 2020-2021, qui offrira davantage de support dans l'accomplissement des engagements que nous, les Etats Membres, avons assumés collectivement.

Quatre ans après l'adoption de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable, la 40^{ème} Conférence générale est organisée dans un contexte qui réclame davantage la prise de mesures concrètes et plus d'efforts pour atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable.

Distinguished participants,

In November 2018, Romania has set the necessary national framework to support the accomplishment of all 17 SDGs, by the adoption of the **National Strategy for Sustainable Development**.

In this challenging undertaking we benefit from the relentless support and key coordination of UNESCO, to whom I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation.

We all agree that the attainment of SDG4 has been revealed as crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The next remaining decade needs to be approached with renewed determination and commitment in order to accomplish the goal on education.

Our endeavours in achieving SDG4 currently focus on **fostering inclusion**. Inclusion of all learners and equal opportunities to quality education.

In 2017 we launched an ambitious, large-scale project entitled **Relevant Curriculum, Open Education for All**, in order to implement the curricular reform started in 2012. It

aims to ensure the successful implementation of the new national curriculum, as well as to address the early school leaving phenomenon, by means of in-service teacher trainings, as well as other specific objectives targeting the pupils belonging to vulnerable groups.

As high-quality educational materials are instrumental for this undertaking, open educational resources are to be developed within the Project. Thus, we fully support the adoption of the *Recommendation on Open Education Resources* and would like to capitalize upon it.

At the same time, UNESCO's initiative for a *Global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications* is appropriate and very much welcomed, as nowadays universities become more and more a *global campus of learners*, while an increasing number of people pursue academic and professional mobility.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The opportunities, as well as the challenges posed by the **Artificial Intelligence** are the main theme of numerous debates at both European and global level. The recent adoption of the *Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence of OECD*, or the *Beijing Consensus* on artificial intelligence and education, are two examples of the outcomes of these undertakings.

This year, during its first **Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, Romania **proposed the IA on the discussions' agenda in the field of education and training**. The use of Artificial Intelligence may have a positive impact in various areas, including education, science or culture.

Romania fully supports the idea of a recommendation on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence, as a standard setting instrument that would guide the undertakings in the field of AI at national and international level. Therefore, we would like to commend UNESCO's initiative on addressing these aspects, as well as the setting up of an International research Centre on AI in Slovenia.

As far as the research and innovation sector is concerned, in connection with **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** - regional and national strategies for **smart specialization** are under development, at the ministerial level, which will support the concentration of public resources in sectors with economic relevance. The **institutional strategic plan** provides financial support for scientific events, fairs and international exhibitions, editing of technical-scientific books, consulting, evaluations, awarding of outstanding achievements in science and technology, actions for early product validation, first production capabilities in the field of essential generic technologies. **The program to increase the economic competitiveness** within the strategic plan is

oriented towards investments in the research infrastructure of pan-European interest, included in the list "European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures", such as the **laser installation "Extreme Light Infrastructure"** and the **"International Center of Advanced Studies for Systems of Rivers - Seas – Danubius -RI"**, part of the EU Strategy for the Danube region. As well, it is desired the development of **hub-type clusters** around the Măgurele "Extreme Light Infrastructure" facility, through partnerships between institutes, industry and local administration, in order to use new technologies in the supply chain within specific industrial sectors (for example space technologies and eco-technologies).

Regarding the **UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme in Romania**, we are proud to set high standards in terms of management of UNESCO designations, through our Global UNESCO Geopark that we have in our country. The Geopark team is using an innovative approach to develop an infrastructure for geotourism and education, based on iconic geological assets and the intangible heritage that has been unfolding over generations in the region.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

La Roumanie considère le travail de l'UNESCO comme essentiel pour mettre en valeur et mesurer la contribution de la Culture à l'Agenda 2030, et nous soutenons les efforts de l'Organisation en ce sens. Nous sommes fiers du fait que la Roumanie compte 8 biens inscrits au Patrimoine mondial, dont 6 culturels et 2 naturels, et que des efforts sont entrepris - avec des résultats certains – pour leur conservation et gestion. Les objectifs majeurs actuels des autorités roumaines dans ce domaine sont : la révision des méthodologies nationales pour le suivi actif, la préservation et la gestion des sites ; le développement des capacités institutionnelles ; la préparation face aux risques ; le développement de la sensibilisation et de la participation des communautés locales.

Pour ce qui est du Patrimoine immatériel, la Roumanie est présente avec 7 biens inscrits dans la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité. Les mesures de sauvegarde entreprises par les autorités roumaines ont comme but essentiel la préservation de la diversité, des connaissances et des traditions transmises d'une génération à autre.

Distingués participants,

Avant de conclure, je tiens à réitérer la détermination de la Roumanie de soutenir les efforts et l'activité de l'UNESCO dans tous les domaines de son mandat, ainsi que de renforcer notre coopération avec les Etats Membres, afin d'accomplir la mission de notre Organisation.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.