



Brazil's speech

UNESCO's 40th General Conference

- Mr. President of the General Conference, please accept my compliments on your election and my best wishes for your work

- Mr. President of the Executive Board, to whom I extend my most sincere recognition for conducting this important decision-making body of UNESCO

- Madam Director-General of UNESCO, whom I congratulate for the successful efforts to revitalize this Organization over the past two years

- Your Excellencies Heads of Delegations,

- Ladies and gentlemen,

Building a culture of peace based on international cooperation in education, culture, sciences and communication, has always guided the constructive work of Brazil in UNESCO since

its creation, in 1945. Our partnership with UNESCO is essential to improve the quality of education, at all levels.

Education, a central pillar of UNESCO's mandate, has an unquestionable impact on all sectors of human activity. It is imbued of this responsibility that I represent here the government of Brazil.

I congratulate the Director General for organizing a Ministerial meeting on Inclusion and Mobility in Higher Education. This is an important initiative for the exchange of ideas and good practices among member states of UNESCO from all continents.

In times of simultaneous challenges, such as the struggle against illiteracy, still unresolved in the 21st century, and the advances of Artificial Intelligence, the role of UNESCO is essential to achieve the Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Brazil is implementing result-oriented policies, aware that the resources allocated to this sector generate social and economic benefits with high impact on human development. We are committed to optimize the allocation of resources for education and to encourage partnerships with institutions and the private sector.

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the organization of the Forum of Ministers of Culture. The active role of Brazil as Vice-President of the World Heritage Committee reflects our commitment with the preservation of our 22 sites inscribed in the World Heritage List.

This commitment is also reflected in the attention given to the creative cities, whose General Conference Brazil is pleased to host in 2020, in the city of Santos. We have received with great satisfaction the selection, by UNESCO, this year, of two Brazilian cities, Fortaleza and Belo Horizonte, to integrate UNESCO's network of Creative Cities, in the fields of "design" and "gastronomy". We now have ten cities represented in the network.

We also recognize the role of UNESCO in the preservation of the geological heritage. In 2019, Brazil submitted two new applications to the Global Geopark Network: the projects "*Canyons of the South*", and "*Serido*". With these initiatives, we hope to contribute to disseminate and protect the Brazilian geological heritage, of special beauty and scientific relevance.

In 2020, Rio de Janeiro will be the first UNESCO's World Capital of Architecture. The events we are organizing in this context will allow us to integrate conservation policies into the broader goals of urban development.

Brazil will also host, in December, the Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence, which will be an opportunity to discuss

national strategies on artificial intelligence and the challenges posed by AI to societies, governments, organizations and citizens.

I reaffirm the interest of the Brazilian government in the United Nations Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Rio de Janeiro will host, in November, the South Atlantic Workshop, to assess the framework of scientific research in the region and identify priorities in terms of studies, training and capacity development.

Brazil hopes to count with strong participation in all these events, which illustrate the strength of our partnership with UNESCO and our commitment with its mandate.

Mr. President,

The Strategic Transformation proposed by the Director General, and welcomed by all members, is reaching its third and most decisive phase, which aims at defining long-term programmatic priorities. As the seventh largest contributor to UNESCO's regular budget, Brazil is committed to a transparent, democratic, efficient and representative Organization.

We must join our forces to strengthen UNESCO. Amendments to its Constitution must be conceived respecting the sense of responsibility that we all share. It is necessary to gather the widest consensus in order to change our 'Magna Carta'.

Removing the right of countries to run for posts in this Organization undermines the democratic spirit of UNESCO.

Removing Members States' right to vote at the Executive Board because of arrears in their contributions to UNESCO's budget will disproportionately penalize developing countries, the most vulnerable to economic crisis and natural disasters.

Madam Director General,

Brazil is ready to continue to contribute in a constructive manner to the strengthening of UNESCO, as it has been doing over the past 74 years of the Organization's existence, through the promotion of cooperation, for the benefit of all its members.

Thank you.