

National Statement

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

- Your Excellency, President of the General Conference;
- Your Excellency, Madame Director General of UNESCO;
- Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Assalamualaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and
Good Afternoon**

1. I would like to begin by congratulating Your Excellency Mr. Ahmet Altay Cengizer, on being elected as the President of the 40th UNESCO General Conference.
2. I also like to express our deep appreciation to Madame Audrey Azoulay, the Director General for her leadership and for the excellent arrangement of this conference.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. With the vision of Quality Education, Dynamic Nation, Brunei Darussalam is committed in providing equitable quality education to develop future-ready citizens who are knowledgeable and skilled for the 21st Century. As part of maintaining the country's competitiveness towards a stable and sustainable economy, it is vital for us to equip our people so that they will be able to participate in a knowledge-based economy and also to be agile in responding to global challenges.

4. In view of this, Brunei Darussalam recently formulated its Education Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 which signifies our commitment and dedication in providing quality and holistic education, in line with our National Vision 2035 which is to produce well-educated, highly skilled and accomplished people. This new Strategic Plan is also well aligned towards achieving the Education 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. One of the most important aspects in delivering quality and holistic education is through high-performing human resources, particularly teachers. On this note, we would like to share that Brunei Darussalam is committed to transform its human resource towards a performance-driven culture by enhancing and improving our human resource capacity and competencies. Furthermore, in strengthening the provision of quality teachers, Brunei Darussalam is reviewing its teacher education programme and has introduced the Literacy and Numeracy Coaching Programme.

6. On another note, our second strategic objective focuses on providing access for equitable and quality education. Brunei Darussalam is amplifying its focus and effort on our special needs students by establishing Centres of Excellence that will maximize resources to provide an inclusive and effective education. Brunei Darussalam through its various programmes such as 'Children of

Hope', and Miftahun Najaah also provides economic and other academic assistance to under-privileged students so that they will have equal and fair opportunities in education.

7. We are also delighted to share that during this years' Teachers Day Celebration in September, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for the establishment of the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the Ministry of Education.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Brunei Darussalam believes education plays a vital role in ensuring a sustainable and better future for all. Hence, by conducting these initiatives and programmes, Brunei Darussalam continues to establish and create opportunities for our people to achieve the Education Agenda 2030 as well as other Sustainable Development Goals. Also, in response to the 4th Industrial Revolution, we are embarking on efforts towards developing and

integrating cutting-edge educational technologies in our curriculum to ensure our students and teachers continue to remain engaged learners. We will also continue to expand the use of technology in our schools that could reduce the gap of students in challenging geographical locations.

9. Brunei Darussalam also highlights the importance of strong and sustainable internal and external stakeholders support by strengthening and sustaining collaborations with parents and other non-governmental institutions.

10. In relation to this, we see UNESCO as an important and relevant partner in developing the education, culture and science sectors. As such, we are pleased to share that we have successfully co-hosted the Sub-Regional Meeting on SDG4 for Quality Education 2030 and the 2019 Annual Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Countries Report Meeting in April, early this year.

Leveraging on the UNESCO's technical expertise and contributions from cluster countries, Brunei Darussalam was able to draft its SDG National Framework for K-12 and higher education.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. In the fields of culture, the arts and heritage, Brunei Darussalam is committed to protect, safeguard and promote its tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Since its ratification of the 1973 and 2003 conventions, Brunei Darussalam is continuously developing its capacity through training programs with UNESCO; strengthening national legislation in monuments and treasure coves and educational programmes through museology, exhibitions and road shows. This year is a special year for us. We are delighted to share that Bandar Seri Begawan, the Capital City of Brunei Darussalam, was declared as the Islamic Culture Capital for the Asian Region, a programme under ISESCO.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. We commend the dedication and commitment of UNESCO in assisting member states in achieving their various educational, cultural and scientific agendas. We believe UNESCO will continue to remain relevant especially to countries like us who need necessary technical assistance in capacity development especially in the areas of rapidly evolving technology and its impact to educational and cultural policies, in big data analytics and its application; in cultural preservation and in scientific research and development. We look forward to further collaboration with UNESCO and its member states in these areas.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. To conclude, I would like to reiterate our full commitment to UNESCO's constructive engagement in the education, science and cultural fields around the world as part of its noble pursuit of world peace and solidarity.

Thank You.
