

National Statement on behalf of Ireland at the 40th UNESCO General Conference

To be delivered by Permanent Delegate of Ireland, Ambassador Dermot Nolan

14 November 2019

Discours de l'Irlande à la Quarantième session de la Conférence Générale de l'UNESCO

Délivré par le Délégué Permanent de l'Irlande, Ambassadeur Dermot Nolan

14 Novembre 2019

Opening Remarks

Monsieur le Président, Madame la Directrice Générale, Ministres, Ambassadeurs et Ambassadrices, Mesdames et Messieurs.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection. L'Irlande se réjouit à la perspective de travailler de manière constructive au cours de la Quarantième session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO pour faire progresser les priorités communes et relever certains des défis auxquels l'Organisation est confrontée.

L'Irlande soutient fermement le multilatéralisme. En tant que petit État, nous avons toujours cru que notre souveraineté était renforcée et non diminuée par notre participation aux organisations multilatérales. Notre engagement se reflète dans notre appui constant de longue date à l'ONU depuis 1955.

Ireland has always been a strong and consistent supporter of the three pillars of the UN's work: peace and security, development and human rights. The principles and values enshrined in the UN

Charter are those we have always striven to promote and protect as we engage across the breadth of UN activities in pursuit of our goals, including here at UNESCO.

Ireland greatly values the line in UNESCO's Constitution that refers to the building of peace in the minds of women and men. We have a considerable experience of building and sustaining peace and promoting reconciliation on the island of Ireland. We believe that the protection and promotion of Education and Culture are key to building sustainable and lasting peace.

2030 SDG4 Agenda

UNESCO provides global and regional leadership in education, strengthens education systems worldwide and responds to contemporary global challenges through education with gender equality as an underlying principle. Ireland is committed to the promotion of education as a fundamental human right for all throughout life and provides a right for education for all children in our Constitution. We also believe that access must be matched by quality.

Education interventions are at the heart of Ireland's international development cooperation programme, which works towards the provision of increased and improved education in developing countries. Our aid programme focuses on girls' education beyond primary school level in the knowledge that equal access to quality education for women and girls leads to improved health and nutrition in society. Indeed, we are proud to make a substantial financial contribution to the UNESCO Comprehensive Sexuality Education programme entitled Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future.

Ireland will also invest at least €250 million over the next five years as part of our international development cooperation programme, to improve access for those children who are currently denied an education, and to ensure a better quality of education for all throughout life.

Culture and Heritage

Culture:

UNESCO plays an indispensable role in the protection and promotion of cultural heritage and diversity.

In particular, Ireland is a huge advocate of the work of UNESCO in relation to Intangible Cultural Heritage. Since ratifying the convention in 2015, we have succeeded in having two of our cornerstone cultural activities inscribed under the convention, Uilleann piping and the sport of hurling. UNESCO's work in recognizing, validating and supporting intangible cultural heritage in the world plays a vital role in helping people recognize and celebrate their place in what can often seem a radically globalizing world.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Ces dernières années, nous avons été témoins de nombreuses attaques contre le patrimoine culturel commun de l'Humanité. Préserver ce patrimoine de la destruction est un objectif clé de l'UNESCO, et nous saluons le travail accompli par cette Organisation dans des circonstances des plus difficiles. Je souhaite donc ici exprimer notre soutien au projet de l'UNESCO " Raviver l'esprit de Mossoul " qui vise à reconstruire et développer l'ancienne ville de Mossoul en Irak. Longtemps considérée comme un carrefour culturel au Moyen-Orient, Mossoul a été ravagé par le conflit entre 2014 et 2017. La reconstruction et la restauration de ce patrimoine culturel est donc nécessaire au rétablissement de la sécurité et à la construction de la paix 'dans l'esprit des hommes et des femmes' à Mossoul.

Sur cette note, je tiens à féliciter l'UNESCO pour son travail et je me réjouis à la perspective d'une coopération future dans la construction d'un monde durable.

Je vous remercie.

Ends.