

**National Statement of the Republic of Indonesia
At the 40th General Conference
To be delivered by H.E. Ambassador Arrmanatha Nasir**

**President of the General Conference,
Chair of the Executive Board,
Madamme Director-General,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my great honour, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, to address the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference.

Indonesia is highly committed, together with other Member States, to the work of UNESCO, especially as a current member of the Executive Board. Indonesia in particular, welcomes UNESCO's contribution towards achieving tangible and sustainable progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With nearly a third of the time to achieve the SDGs has elapsed, we are faced with daunting challenges. Continued high population growth, growing inequality, climate change, growing cases of radicalism, intolerance and violent extremism, and the rise various socio-economy injustices around the world, requires us to do more.

As no one country can address these global challenges alone, we call on greater global cooperation and collaboration. Key to this Mr. President, is multilateral cooperation. As a member of the international community, we all have the responsibility to harness, nurture and strengthen multilateral cooperation.

In the context of UNESCO, our multilateral shared responsibility is to shape the future of humankind, by ensuring that the 9,8 billion people in 2050, are equipped with quality skills that match the day challenges. We must also ensure that future humankind uphold values of mutual respect, tolerance, and cultural diversity. These are also key to for sustainable development.

In this regard, UNESCO, as the specialized UN Agency for education, science, culture and communication, must strengthen its role to address these global challenges.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indonesia is in harmony with UNESCO, in its vision, initiatives, values, and aspirations, where a quality education is a necessary foundation for a lifelong learning in a complex and rapidly changing world.

A renewed emphasis on advancement of culture promotes an inclusive universal basic right to happiness and peace for all as the supreme goal of all development.

That collaboration in science sector is a principle requirement for innovation to address global challenges today and in the future.

That free exchange of ideas, as enshrined in the Constitution of UNESCO, is a solid foundation for peace, cooperation, development and economic growth.

Towards this end, allow me to share our commitment and progress made in advancing UNESCO vision, values and aspiration.

First, I am proud to announce that Indonesia has achieved significant progress in the education sector.

The Government has revolutionized national curriculum by integrating it with character education and the 21st century competencies and literacies.

One of the flagship initiatives made is the National Literacy Movement Program that not only attaches basic, but also advanced literacy, including literacy in science and technology, digital and numeracy, culture, and civic.

Secondly, I am also privileged to announce several important breakthroughs in mainstreaming culture as a driver and enabler of sustainable development.

In enhancing governance of culture, the Government of Indonesia has adopted National Law on Cultural Advancement in 2017 that clarifies the value chain of culture, acknowledges the protection of intellectual property rights and its interface with cultural heritage. This has strengthened its contribution to sustainable tourism and economic development.

In line with the Law, a policy framework called Cultural Strategy was formulated and would be integrated into the 2020-2024 National Development Plan.

I am also pleased to inform this august conference that recently, the Government of Indonesia has launched the Cultural Development Index - the first Index in the world that measures progress of development at the national and provincial level, in the context of cultural advancement.

In 2021 Indonesia will be hosting World Cultural Forum, and we look forward to welcoming you all in Indonesia.

Third, with regard to science sector, we remain engaged with the international community in the advancement of science. Indonesia is particularly interested in the ongoing deliberations on the ethical perspective of artificial intelligence as well as life science.

Fourth, on communication and information, Indonesia remains steadfast in safeguarding the freedom of expression as we believe that a vibrant democracy can only be further cultivated and strengthened with a free and responsible media and journalism.

As such, Indonesia shall continue to empower its people by fostering the free flow of ideas, access to information and knowledge while placing the necessary legal framework to integrate information technology.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, Indonesia shall remain a credible and reliable partner of UNESCO, in strengthening all-inclusiveness and transparency of the Organization and its reform steps reflecting the spirit of the times and reality, while reinforcing the strategic goals of the Organization.

Finally, allow me to take this opportunity to seek your invaluable support for Indonesia re-election as Member of ICC-MAB for the period of 2019-2024, at the election to be held on 21 November 2019.

I thank you.