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سفارة
دولة إريتريا
في فرنسا

Ambassade de l'Etat d'Erythrée en France

Statement by Mr. Bereket Paulos
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France

40th Session of UNESCO's General Conference

(Paris, 12-27 November 2019)

Excellencies,
Honourable President of the General Conference,
Honourable Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Honorable Director General of UNESCO,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel greatly honoured to represent the Government of the State of Eritrea at this 40th Session of UNESCO's General Conference. On this occasion my Government wishes to recognize and congratulate the Director General Mrs. Audrey Azoulay, for her tireless work, and vision in steering this renowned organization towards building a sustainable, peaceful and equitable future.

UNESCO's mandate and ideals, as well as the quest for global cooperation have become more relevant and significant today, since we are facing an increase in major challenges such as global warming, terrorism, intolerance and above all the destruction of irreplaceable human heritage and masterpieces.

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The city of Asmara was inscribed onto the World Heritage List of UNESCO two years ago. This inscription of the first ever Eritrean site has been realized thanks to the consistent support from UNESCO and its advisory bodies.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Education in Eritrea is compulsory between 7 and 16 years of age. Important goals of Eritrea's educational Policy are to provide basic education in each of Eritrea's mother tongues as well as to produce a society that is equipped with the necessary skills to function with a culture of self-reliance in the modern economy.

Education is universal and free at all levels, including a successful scheme for out of formal school and nomad children. The Government has integrated UNESCO's educational plan in determining its strategies on Higher Education and Literacy, Adult Education and TVET. Its participation at various regional and international conferences were of great importance. Workshops on the development of SDG4 with special focus on leadership training, pedagogy, curriculum transformation and training were conducted in Eritrea.

Cultural Heritage is a priority for Eritrea. In order to raise awareness of Natural and Cultural heritage, safeguarding and transmission of intangible cultural heritage to the young generation, identify underwater cultural heritage, workshops were held inside Eritrea and abroad on,

- Historical landscape,
- The protection and promotion of diversity and cultural expressions,
- Preservation of underwater cultural heritage.

Mr. President

With regards to Science Eritrea's strategic objective aims at raising awareness of the environment and its protection, identifying the environmental impacts of development projects and associated appropriate management plan.

Accordingly conducted awareness raising workshops and training programmes on,

- Mainstreaming climate change and environment in development,
- Conducting Environmental Impact Assessment,
- Planting one million trees in six zones of Eritrea,
- Assessing potential energy projects,
- Refining new energy policy and master plan.

Mr. President,

I would like to assure you that we will work closely with UNESCO and Member States to ensure that we meet the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. Let me, therefore, conclude by saying that we need to join hands to pursue together the noble goals and objectives of our organization- to build on common belief and confidence and move forward to create a peaceful world.

Thank you for your attention.

