

40TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. AVIRMED BATTUR, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT DELEGATE OF MONGOLIA TO UNESCO

Mr. President of the General Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Altay Cengizer on assuming the honorable duty of the President of the 40th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO. Mr. President, you can count on my delegation's support in discharging your important duties.

Today UNESCO's mandate has never been so more relevant to us. Thus, Mongolia reaffirms its full support to the mandates and fundamental principles of UNESCO.

Mongolia has made a strong commitment to accelerate progress towards achieving SDG4. And UNESCO has been always instrumental in reshaping education in Mongolia. We appreciate UNESCO's assistance for conducting Education Policy Review and TVET Policy Review to complement Mongolia's Education Sector Development Master Plan for the next 10 years as well as in localizing the SDG 4 at national level.

The way Industrial Revolution 4.0 is transforming the world, it will also affect and transform education. Therefore, Mongolia welcomes UNESCO's new global initiative on the Futures of Education to reimagine how knowledge and learning can shape the future of humanity and the planet.

Moreover, Mongolia fully supports UNESCO's Global convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education adopted two days ago. Mongolia's commitment to the improved mobility of students and the strengthened collaboration across the region demonstrated by ratification of the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education in May 2019.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

In the field of natural sciences, Mongolia considers it is urgent to seek solutions to stop unsustainable ways of exploiting natural resources, which lead to the aggravation of problems related to climate change, the loss of biodiversity and environmental protection. In this respect, Mongolia fully supports the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO MAB program, nominating new sites to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

A First National Conference of Scientists, which was organized in September this year by the Government of Mongolia resonates very well with UNESCO's science program priorities.

UNESCO's GO-SPIN methodology was instrumental in maintaining an effective inventory of the national research and innovation system.

In May 2019, the Mongolian Parliament approved a revised law on Water pollution fee, which will lead to a reduction of water pollution and enhancement of the effectiveness of its treatment processes. Another considerable action is a protection of wetlands. Currently, a total of 48.4 percent of the sources of rivers and lakes in the territory of Mongolia are taken under the state special protection.

Mongolia sincerely appreciates the UNESCO's Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport for strengthening the Institutional Capacity of Mongolian National Anti-Doping Organization. In order to ensure that the public sector is equipped with the right skill-set to nurture evidence-informed policy making. We have presented our candidature to the intergovernmental council of the "Management of Social Transformation Program".

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

We recognize the importance of UNESCO's action in favor of protection and promotion of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage and the implementation of its main conventions in the field of Culture.

Mongolia nominated "Traditional technique of making Airag - fermented mare's milk and its associated customs" for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the Intergovernmental Committee in Bogota this year. We would appreciate all of your kind support for this special element.

As a State Party to the World Heritage Convention since 1990, Mongolia is strongly committed to the preservation and conservation of the cultural and natural heritage. In this regard, the hydrological impact study of Eg River Hydro Power Plant on Lake Baikal during its construction and operation has been conducted. The result of study shows that impact is negligible. Furthermore, the study shows that during the operation of Eg River Hydro Power Plant, there won't be any change to annual inflow and harm to Lake Baikal.

The Government of Mongolia supports the activities undertaken by UNESCO in partnership with the Swedish Government to support cultural and creative industry and promote cultural heritage. Taking this opportunity Mongolia would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Government of Sweden for their enormous and continuous contribution.

On Communication and Information, Mongolia recognizes the importance of their potential impact in the socio-economic development to achieve the Sustainable

Development Goals. The Government of Mongolia presented its first Voluntary National Report on the progress towards the sustainable development at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum held in July this year in New York.

Mongolia also stresses importance and relevance of the Participation Program and the Young professionals program of UNESCO.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Mongolia stands ready to actively contribute to the organization's efficiency, take part in its strategic transformation and bring new ideas and fresh thoughts to the implementation of UNESCO's program and projects.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to UNESCO Beijing and Bangkok Offices and UNESCO Networks and partners in the sub-region, such as Korean and Japanese National Commissions for UNESCO, and the others with whom we have been closely cooperating ever since.

I thank you all for your kind attention.