

**Speech of the Republic of Moldova**  
**at the 40<sup>th</sup> UNESCO General Conference**  
**18 November 2019, Paris**

**Mr. President of the General Conference,**

**Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,**

**Madam Director General,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,**

At the outset I would like to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Altay Cengizer on his assumption of the Presidency of the General Conference and to commend his wise leadership of this session.

Today, seventy four years after its creation, the mission of UNESCO to forge a culture of peace by fostering exchange of knowledge and international cooperation in the fields of education, culture and science, is more relevant than ever.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the strong support of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO and its increasingly important role in creating genuine dialogue between cultures and peoples based upon mutual respect and shared values.

Mr. President,

Education is a national priority for the Republic of Moldova, as its contribution to sustainable development is essential. Ensuring access to high-quality education and the production of new knowledge and skills, as well as their efficient use, are the cornerstone of the policy documents in the Republic of Moldova: the Education Development Strategy 2014-2020, the Education code, as well as our commitments under the Association Agreement with the European Union.

The new curriculum developed for primary and secondary education is based on a new system of learning and training, oriented at active learning, development of creativity and life skills, with an emphasis on the key competences for citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In the fields of vocational and higher education, the primary objective of our policies is to meet the study offer with the needs of both national and

international labor market. The tools we developed to reach this goal are implementing dual education, developing Centers of excellence in specific fields of study and a continuous dialogue with employers, social partners and other stakeholders.

Distinguished participants,

The role of UNESCO in the development of access to science is essential, that is why Moldova fully supports the elaboration of a new recommendation on open science aiming at making scientific research and data accessible to all and recognizing the role of inclusive science for the fight against poverty.

The research and innovation system is an area which underwent important changes in our country over the past 2 years. We are proud to note that following the process of reforming the field of research started in 2017, important steps were taken for the integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European Research Area, by adopting the National Program in the fields of research and innovation for 2020-2023 and the creation of a National Agency for Research and Development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We commend the efforts of UNESCO to place culture at the heart of the Sustainable Development Agenda and we welcome the initiative to gather the Ministers of Culture of all member states to take action on culture and heritage as fundamental dimensions for human development, peace and social transformation.

The Republic of Moldova has committed itself to a comprehensive process of safeguarding and promoting cultural and historical heritage. The cooperation between Moldova and UNESCO in the field of heritage was marked by the inscription of the traditional wall-carpet craftsmanship and cultural practices associated to the beginning of spring on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The National Strategy for the development of culture 2016-2020 sets culture as a national priority, with a special focus on creative industries as a source of cultural and economic well-being. In this regard, the first Creative Hub was created in the Republic of Moldova in 2018, aimed at helping young creators develop their talent and foster partnerships with international partners.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate the strong support of the Republic of Moldova to UNESCO's ongoing process of strategic transformation. We are fully convinced that the increasing role of UNESCO in promoting the Sustainable Development Agenda will contribute to achieving its fundamental mission of promoting peace based on intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity.

Thank you for your attention!