

Déclaration à la Conférence générale vendredi après le vote

President of the General Conference,

President of the Executive Board,

Director-General,

Please permit me to thank you for this collective decision by the General Conference of our organization, which is the most fundamental decision as it is the most universal, and the most crucial decision as it is responsible for setting UNESCO's general course in accordance with the UNESCO Constitution.

(The unity you have shown in this vote is a good omen for the coming period, in which we need to stand shoulder to shoulder).

I would like to commend the electoral process that has been held, with public hearings that have allowed everyone to take note transparently of the projects proposed by the candidates, who I would like to greet here.

Right now, I have in mind all those people I have met in the last months and, earlier, in my capacity as Minister of Culture, who have great hopes for UNESCO.

I also have in mind the mandate of UNESCO, which is strikingly modern and which is the basis for an organization and functioning equal to that modernity.

I have in mind all those amongst you, here today, who, while clear-sighted as to the Organization's difficulties, know how irreplaceable and essential it is in the face of our world's challenges and seek to rediscover a sufficient unity and serenity to best fulfil its mandate.

I have in mind the teams I am proud to be joining, and who are conscious of what they can bring to the workings of the world.

And lastly, I have in mind Irina Bokova, the first woman to be elected to lead UNESCO, and who has led the Organization with determination and courage in times of crisis. We will have the opportunity to pay tribute to her this afternoon.

Lastly, I would like to tell you how delighted I am to serve an Organization in which I have great faith, and my determination to contribute to strengthening it so as to bring it even more to the heart of global governance, as it bears the genuine power to transform the world. We, the General Conference, the Executive Board and the Secretariat, are engaging in a collective task, for which each of us bears responsibility.

Thank you.