



THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA PARIS CHAPTER

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND
CHINA PARIS CHAPTER AT THE 210TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
BOARD OF UNESCO**

Paris, 2-10 December 2020

Chairman of the Executive Board,
President of the General Conference,
Madam Director General of UNESCO,
Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honor for the Republic of Ghana, in its capacity as Chair of the G77 and China Paris Chapter, to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group at this 210th Session of the Executive Board. I would like to warmly congratulate you, Mr. Chair, through your leadership and guidance, the Executive Board is meeting in these unprecedented times of the COVID 19 pandemic. Please be assured of our full support and cooperation.

The strategic orientation of UNESCO for the next decade is of prime importance to our Group. Therefore we reaffirm the need to preserve the unique relevance of UNESCO's mandate. We take note of the inclusion of the reduction of inequalities in the proposed mission statement of the next Medium-Term Strategy and call on UNESCO to function as a capacity-builder that will deliver concrete, measurable, and efficient outcomes at country-level.

Furthermore, our Group wishes to confirm its support for UNESCO's two global priorities, Africa and Gender Equality as well as the emphasis placed on Youth as a priority group. However regarding the SIDS which are a priority group in the current strategy, we refer to document 210 EX/22.Inf concerning the consultations on the C4 and C5 where the Pacific and the Latin America and Caribbean regions requested to consider SIDS as a Global priority in the Organization. G77 requests the Secretariat to take this request into consideration for the next Medium-Term Strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

We call on UNESCO, in its capacity as the lead UN Agency for Education to support Member States from the developing world in their efforts to ensure that learning continues despite the crisis. We also welcome the Global Coalition for Education and the successful Global Education Meeting to strengthen the global response to the pandemic.

In the field of culture, we welcome UNESCO's efforts to support artists and cultural professionals from developing countries as provided under the 2005 convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. We call on UNESCO to make further efforts to advocate dialogue among civilizations.

Facing the ever-increasing digitalization of our world, we urge UNESCO to promote equal access to technological advancement and reaffirm the ethical mandate to ensure inclusivity, diversity, multilateralism, and international cooperation. In this regard, our Group wishes to emphasize the importance of the draft recommendations on Open Science and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

To conclude, we reiterate that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are highly important to accelerating our efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda in a balanced, coordinated, and integrated manner.

Thank you.