

**GRENADA**  
**210<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Board**  
**3 December 2020**

Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,  
Mr. President of the General Conference,  
Madam Director-General,  
Dear colleagues,

I would like to start by thanking you, Mr. Chairperson, and the Secretariat for all the efforts made to organize this session, as well as the Director-General for the measures taken to allow UNESCO to continue to function and to fulfill its role in this difficult context.

Grenada associates itself with the sentiments expressed by Saint Lucia on behalf of GRULAC.

Concerning the Draft Medium-Term Strategy 41 C/4 consultations, we note with satisfaction the high rate of replies to the questionnaire received from Member States.

We recognize the need to enhance UNESCO's programmatic focus. As for the 81% of Member States which replied, we are in favour of keeping the current mission statement for the next C/4, concentrating on the nine SDGs prioritized by Member States with regard to the Organization's strategic role, taking into consideration its comparative advantage and limited resources. We do not see the need to enlarge its mandate to new fields already covered by other U.N. organizations.

We believe that UNESCO through its work, programmes and initiatives takes already into account several underlying issues, many of which are also imbedded in the proposed Strategic Objectives and programme delivery, including the reduction of inequalities.

We welcome the intersectoral cooperation approach, where possible, which is necessary to streamline the organization's work, while maintaining its Programme Sectors with a clear budget for each one to ensure their accountability for programme delivery and results.

Given the disruption of education worldwide, we welcome the support of UNESCO in providing training and capacity building to Member States. We look forward to continued support as we recognize the undeniable challenges faced in many Member States, noting the changing roles and responsibilities within the education system as we became fully immersed into digital learning. We also recognize the importance of international cooperation and sharing of best practices, as we are forced to rethink how we continue to achieve sustainable development while dealing with a global pandemic.

We welcome the continued work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System and the Tsunami Ready Programme for the Caribbean, noting the underlying risks factors which can result in total destruction of an island State in the matter of minutes.

Covid-19 pandemic has brought into focus the importance of technology, the need for skills development and how quality and standards play an important role in the use, delivery and development of technological services. Grenada underlines the important role of UNESCO through its work on universal access to information, building peaceful and inclusive knowledge societies and the development of ethical standards, including through the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

Mr. Chairperson,

Small Island Developing State (SIDS) are currently experiencing severe health, social, economic as well as environmental challenges, all exacerbated by COVID-19. We call on UNESCO to continue its support with practical and impactful solutions for the successful implementation of the current and future SIDS Action Plans and to provide appropriate resources to ensure their successful implementation in accordance with 209 EX/Decision 5.I.D.

We reiterate our support to the two Global Priorities Africa and Gender Equality. As requested during the consultations of the Latin America and Caribbean region on the C/4 and C/5, we propose that SIDS become a Global Priority for UNESCO. We call on Member States for their support as our lives and livelihood depend on it.

Thank you.