

**Statement by  
H.E. Arrmanatha C. Nasir  
Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Indonesia to UNESCO  
210<sup>th</sup> Session Executive Board of the UNESCO  
2 December 2020**

Thank you Chair,

President of the General Conference,

Madam Director General,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Indonesia commend you Mr. Chairman, and the Bureau, for the work in **convening this virtual session**.

We also thank the Director General, and the Secretariat, for the successful arrangements and technical support of this virtual session.

The pandemic has **expedited**, the need for digital transformation in our everyday lives.

The ability for UNESCO and its governance to adapt, **will determine** UNESCO continued effectiveness and relevance in the multilateral system.

It is therefore our **fervent hope** this virtual session is successful.

Indonesia will be **constructive** to ensure this virtual session result in effective discussion and deliver concrete outcomes.

## **Chairperson,**

It is **inevitable** that the impact of the pandemic will continue to at least the end of 2021.

Indonesia is **committed** to continuously support UNESCO's extensive mitigation efforts within its areas of expertise, in the context of multilateral framework.

Nationally we continue to adapt, and reform to **strengthen resilience** of our education, culture, science, communication, and information sectors.

On education, Indonesia has made **continuous adjustments** to supports distance teaching and learning, at all levels of education.

Working with the private sector, the government has provided **free internet quotas** for students, teachers, and faculty members.

We have also **developed** “emergency” curriculum, syllabus, and modules for early childhood and primary school education.

Our aim is to ensure continued **education for all** and to implement our national policy: ‘**freedom of learning**’.

We recognize the **importance** of cultural expressions in fostering social cohesion and bringing resilience to societies.

To mitigate the impact of the pandemic for artists and cultural workers, we have created **virtual platforms** to keep them productive and continue to channel their creativity.

One platform titled “*Pekan Budaya Nasional*” or “National Cultural Festival” was **broadcasted** from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

It showcased 27 themed conferences, 93 art shows, 1.477 paintings, and 4.791 artists and art workers.

## **Chairperson,**

Indonesia **commend** the leadership and commitment of the Director General, to undertake reform through strategic transformation of UNESCO.

The pandemic has **highlighted the urgency** for a UNESCO that is **efficient, agile and ready to adapt**, not just of the Secretariat but also its governance and members.

It is our hope the strategic transformation can **deliver** on this.

This is key for UNESCO to remain **relevant** in facing the difficult challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In this context, Indonesia welcomes the preliminary proposal of the draft Medium-Term Strategy (41 C/4) and the draft Programme and Budget (41 C/5).

We **appreciate** UNESCO's wide and extensive engagement and consultations with all stakeholders in drafting the proposal.

*In this regard, Indonesia would like to thank UNESCO for inviting two science experts from Indonesia to consult and give their inputs to the preliminary proposal.*

In working on the Medium-Term Strategy, it is also important to **better reflect** on the financial and resources aspects of the organization.

Along with the need to continuously ensure transparency and good governance, there is also a need to look at ways that allows flexibility for the organization, to adjust programs to meet challenges during crisis and emergencies.

We **look forward and support** the Director General continued leadership on the reform process and on its implementation of this medium-term strategy in the years to come.

**Chairperson,**

We have just 10 years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The pandemic has highlighted **important areas** of UNESCO's work that would help achieve the SDGs.

Issues such as **future education, artificial intelligence for education, open science, big data, and internet of things**, are paramount not only to mitigate the pandemic, but also towards achieving the 2030 Agendas.

We encourage UNESCO to **continue** its work and consultations with all stakeholders, on a standard setting instruments and to build capacity and competence on these issues.

Indonesia is **committed** to support UNESCO's effort in accelerating the achievement of SDGs, especially on quality education.

Thank you.