

**Statement by Tajikistan Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Ambassador
Jamoliddin Ubaidullo at the UNESCO Executive Board's 210th session
(Paris, 3 December 2020)**

**Dear Mr. Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Madame Director General,
Distinguished colleagues,**

At the outset, let me express my gratitude to the Executive Board management and Secretariat for presenting me with an opportunity to take the floor. I do hope and also wish that you and your families are safe and sound during these difficult times of COVID pandemic.

In my capacity of Permanent Delegate of Tajikistan to UNESCO, I warmly welcome the initiative of nomination of Madam Audrey Azoulay for the next term of office of UNESCO Director-General. **My country considers indeed Madam Azoulay as a worthy and time-tested candidate to this high post that she has been serving so proactively, dynamically and fruitfully during the past years, particularly as the second female leader in the history of the organization.**

Director-General Azoulay's role in steadily advancing the noble goals, ideals, principles, and tasks of UNESCO in all dimensions of its activities should not be underestimated. **With her longstanding fidelity to intercultural dialogue for promoting education for all and the dissemination of scientific and cultural knowledge, protection of cultural heritage all over the world, Audrey Azoulay has been productively loyal to this commitment as the Director-General of UNESCO.** She has been prioritizing five important areas: rebuilding and reviving the devastated Iraqi city of Mosul.

The Director-General Audrey Azoulay has been playing to the agency's strengths as cultural guardian, ethical compass and laboratory of ideas. **DG has also pledged her humanistic support to people & culture in Lebanon following the massive explosion, even paying a visit to this country in this period of dangerous pandemic for further expressing UNESCO's solidarity and engagements in its fields of competence.**

In view of the above-said, I would highly appreciate and eagerly invite my counterparts to extend their support for the worthy candidature of Madam Azoulay to the position of UNESCO Director-General.

At the end, allow me to extend our solidarity and condolences to the people of France for passing away of former President of France Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Thank you!