



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF ALBANIA TO UNESCO

Statement by the Permanent Delegate Ambassador Ferit Hoxha to the Plenary Debate of the 205th Executive board of UNESCO 9 October 2018

Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,
Mme. Director General,
Colleagues,

- The current troubled world reminds us how much multilateralism has been key to many achievements, in every field, during the last seven decades. Therefore, the quest to have an ever stronger and active UNESCO by increasing its efficiency and delivery, currently at the heart of our collective efforts, is as timely as ever. Albania remains irreversibly committed to a world where nations come together to find ways and means to face common challenges, bring joint solutions and collectively design the future.
- Albania fully supports the ongoing process of Strategic Transformation. We have now a solid roadmap with a clear structural working framework. Albania maintains that we should all feel strongly concerned and included in the process and contribute positively.

M. Le Président,

- Nous nous nous félicitons de l'esprit de coopération qui a prévalu lors des travaux du comité de Conventions et Recommandations. C'est bien la preuve, s'il en fallait une, que même lorsque les positions de divers pays semblent être très éloignées, de vrais efforts de bonne volonté réussissent à faire prévaloir cette formidable capacité à s'entendre sur la meilleure possibilité d'aller de l'avant.
- La dimension des droits de l'homme au sein de l'UNESCO est un important pilier et nous y demeurons très attachés. Nous pensons que cet esprit doit nous guider aussi dans les discussions en cours sur le programme Mémoire du Monde dont nous soutenions le plan d'action proposé.

M. le Président,

- En juillet dernier, l'Albanie a présenté un rapport national volontaire sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs de Développement Durable au Forum Politique de Haut Niveau à New York. Le rapport indique que 140 cibles – soit 83% du total - sont directement liées à des composantes spécifiques de la stratégie nationale de développement et d'intégration, ce qui traduit un fort encrage avec les objectifs et priorités du pays.
- Lors du Conseil Européen de juin dernier, les dirigeants de l'UE ont décidé d'autoriser la Commission européenne à entamer, en juin prochain, des négociations d'adhésion à l'Union européenne avec l'Albanie. Il va de soi que les négociations d'adhésion viendront renforcer davantage la mise en œuvre de l'agenda 2030.

M. le Président,

- Je salue la place centrale que la Directrice Générale a accordée à l'éducation et au rôle central de l'Unesco dans la mise en œuvre de l'ODD4, lors de sa présentation faite hier devant le conseil.

- L'éducation des filles et des femmes est justement un important préalable pour combattre et réduire la pauvreté et bâtir une société plus juste et équitable.

Mr. President,

- UNESCO's work to advance and promote science in the interests of peace, sustainable development and human security and well-being, remains of paramount importance. I would like in this respect to point out two important projects: **Diktas** and **MedPrograme**, both with a large regional outreach, put in place with a view to achieving large-scale positive impacts on the global environment and help mitigate increasingly threatening climate change related challenges. And if we needed another reminder, the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published just yesterday estimates that while all indicators are red, there is still a chance to limit global warming to 1,5 ° C by 2052. In short, the report says that we can do it if we want it.

Mr. President,

- The terrible fire that consumed the National Museum of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro last September is an unspeakable loss for Brazil but also a terrible one for humanity. We reiterate our deepest sympathy to our Brazilian colleagues.
- This should strike a warning about the vulnerabilities around the world which need outside help. The obvious question is "can we do more"?
- A world-known mainstream magazine wrote a few days later that "Unesco is notoriously ineffectual". It is a harsh and unjust statement and it demonstrates the lack of recognition of work and overall contribution if not also of visibility.
- We welcome the proposal by Brazil regarding Museum Management and Risk Prevention and hope we will come up with

clear guidelines and advice about strengthening museum governance, art collections' preservation and protection, and whenever possible, help museums digitize their collections.

- We expect that the proposed Forum of Ministers of Culture will, among other, contribute in this regard as well.

Mr. President,

- As we debate on ways and means of making the Organization more active, more visible, with a stronger role in the world by improving its communication and outreach, I would like to congratulate the DG for including UNESCO for the first time – arguably a very strange absence for a House of Culture – to the Days of Heritage and opening the doors to outside visitors. It was a success.
- In the very same vein, we strongly encourage the DG to look at the role and contribution of programs such as the one on Goodwill Ambassadors, Artists for Peace and alike. They have helped the outside world identify UNESCO with action for good. Yet, we think it is high time that the composition of these programs is renewed and refreshed with the aim of making it active, by bringing new voices, new faces and fresh blood to match the new requirements and ambitions we seek for our organization.

Thank you

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