

JOINT STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE ASEAN-UNESCO COMMITTEE (AUC)

205th SESSION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

On behalf of the ASEAN-UNESCO Committee (AUC), and in my capacity as temporary Chair of AUC, I would like to present a joint statement of our Group to this two-hundred-and-fifth session of the Executive Board.

The AUC would like to assure once again our confidence in the Director General of UNESCO, and also in the Chairperson of the Executive Board.

In our previous session, all members of the Executive Board and also member states of UNESCO have come to a consensus that the Strategic Transformation should be carried out in a concrete, inclusive and open manner. We look forward to opportunities for Member States to contribute substantively to the reform process and that results shall be reported upon regularly.

We would like to remind that the issue of reforms will overlap with several other issues. We should take note on the principal of rotation. It is important that we should give all member states an equal and fair chance to participate and involve in all subsidiary organs, and also governing bodies of UNESCO, and this should be well reflected in the instruments utilized in UNESCO.

The issue of strategic transformation is also in close conjunction with the issue of budget allocation. Considering financial constraints of our organization, it is important that we agree upon an efficient plan and allocation for the budget framework, and paying close attention to UNESCO core programs.

As a region which is prone to various natural disasters, we would like to underline the importance of doubling our collective efforts in strengthening the cooperation on emergency response and disaster management including disaster risk reduction. The major disasters that have recently struck our region is a wakeup call for all of us to build resilient community not only in the ASEAN's region but also at the global level.

Once again, we call upon the Director-General, the Secretariat and all Member States to continue to nurture a spirit of optimism, solidarity and cooperation, which has never been so imperative and indispensable for UNESCO to overcome current challenges and to seize opportunities for a better future of the Organization.

Finally, ASEAN Member States are committed to working closely with other Member States and the Secretariat to advance our shared goals.

Thank you.