

National Statement of China at the 205th Session of the Executive Board

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Madam President of the General Conference ,
Mr Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Madam Director-General,
Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to speak on behalf of the Chinese delegation to express our appreciation for the thorough and efficient preparation and organization of this session of the Executive Board, and to commend the Director-General for delivering a full and informative work report yesterday.

China associates with the joint statement read out by the representative of Japan on behalf of the ASPAC group.

The financial situation of UNESCO is stable and improving, and the implementation of the programmes and projects is making steady progress. These are important contexts for our discussion on how to further enhance UNESCO's global influence and leadership.

Strategic transformation is an important topic of this Board. China commends the Director General for her determination and courage to promote the strategic transformation, and endorses its goals, course and principles. China supports the work of the Steering Committee and its subordinate teams, and wishes to see the strategic transformation focus on the course and overall design of future development of UNESCO and on the key priorities to achieve coordinated progress and effective and efficient implementation. While focusing on improving the operational efficiency of the organization, we should further reflect on how to enhance the Organization as "laboratory of ideas" and strengthen its distinctive intellectual power, to take up the challenges of unilateralism, protectionism and violent extremism. We should promote the exchange and mutual learning of civilizations, deepen the cooperation under the framework of the "Belt and Road" Initiative, and advance the building of a community of shared future for humankind.

Ladies and gentlemen ,

Priorities Africa and gender equality have always been at the top of UNESCO's priorities. Last month, the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation Beijing Summit was successfully convened in Beijing. To follow up on the outcome of the Forum, China will continue to support the UNESCO CFIT for another four years in promotion of African

education development. China will also continue to support the UNESCO Girls' and Women's Education Prize in promotion of gender equality in education. Professor Peng Liyuan, UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education, will send a congratulatory message to the third award ceremony, which is to be held in two days.

China underscores the importance of various programmes in the fields of education, sciences, culture and communication and information, as included in the agenda of this Board:

The 2018 National Education Conference of China, which was held last month, made comprehensive plans for promoting education modernization, building a robust country in education and an education system that meets people's demands. It emphasized the strategic importance of giving priority to education development and having a modern education with Chinese characteristics and of world class quality. It underscored the promotion of fairness and justice in society through education equity. It also highlighted as the fundamental task of education the cultivation of people with high moral values and the construction of an education system that comprehensively cultivates moral, intellectual, physical and artistic competences. As a member of the 2030 Education Steering Committee, China is willing to share with other Member States ideas and experiences of promoting education equity and quality.

China rigorously advocates and participates in the protection of cultural heritage in conflict areas. China contributes to the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and provides refuges to endangered cultural property. China supports UNESCO's cooperation with ALIPH to generate synergy in implementing initiatives such as "Reviving the Spirit of Mosul".

As a staunch supporter of the Paris Agreement and an active participant in the International Hydrological Programme, China will host the 8th Global FRIEND-Water Conference in Beijing in the coming November to follow up on the outcome of the 8th World Water Forum and forward the implementation of SDG 6.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The current session of the Executive Board is a platform for collective reflection and action, for enhancing mutual trust and collaboration. China will work with other Member States to strive for a UNESCO of "collective wisdom in action" and contribute to the solidarity, harmony and healthy development of the Organization.

Thank you for your attention.