

**MALAYSIA NATIONAL STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY
HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION MALAYSIA,
DR. MASZLEE BIN MALIK ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 205TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO
(9 OCTOBER 2018)**

Madam President of the General Conference,
Mr. Chair of the Executive Board,
Madam Director-General,
Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

1. First and foremost, I would like to record my sincerest appreciation, for the warm welcome extended to me, to represent Malaysia in this assembly of nations, upon the formation of the new Malaysian Government following the General Election in May.

2. Being my first time here, I also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Her Excellency Madam Audrey Azoulay, for your appointment as the Director General in the 39th General Conference last year. Malaysia believes that with your leadership, UNESCO will continue to be relevant to millions of people who have always looked up to this organisation as a beacon of peace and development.

3. On the same note, Malaysia would like to commend the transformative agenda introduced by the Director General during the last session, and congratulate the Secretariat for the significant achievements so far. In this regard, we believe that dialogues and communications are essential if we want to see the success of these efforts.

4. We look forward to a strengthened UNESCO that is more agile and able to adapt to the world's fast changing environment. The need to change has never been this great. Globalization is at the level we had never seen before. Economic and geopolitical changes, combining with changes in demography, create demand for innovative solutions. Our stakeholders, which include the governments, communities, families and children, deserve the very best.

5. I can assure you that Malaysia is fully supportive of this strategic transformation. We acknowledge that member states' involvement is duly required to strengthen the efficiency of the means of action, and help to position UNESCO for 2030. And just like other member states, we are ready and look forward to being part of the journey.

6. Currently, Malaysia is trying its best to find ways to contribute to the enhancement of other member states, especially under the South-South Cooperation. The **Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation Programme**

(MUCP), has been recognised as a model for this kind of cooperation. We are proud to have been able to contribute a total of nine (9) million US dollars over the period of 2013 to 2019, through programmes which have reached participants from over 70 countries.

Ladies and gentlemen

7. Malaysia is also home to two (2) **Category II centres**. Malaysia has great pleasure in renewing its support for the **Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (HTC-KL)**, as a means to continue its support to technology and information exchange, as well as to heighten scientific and technological partnership. The Executive Board will consider an item on the renewal of the agreement between **HTC-KL** and UNESCO in this session.

8. While examining the provisional agenda, we also realised the importance of item on the **Prevention of Violent Extremism**, which is of concern to us all. As we seek peace and work toward sustainable development, children and youth all around the globe are vulnerable to seeds of violence. They are exposed to ideologies that nurture hatred, and information or (mis)information that can trigger unwanted actions.

9. We would also like to see more promotion of inter-cultural dialogues, as part of advocacy and capacity development towards a more peaceful and harmonious world. While many are dealing with extremism as a means, Malaysia, however viewing it as part of the symptoms. Hence to defeat the violent extremism we must deal with root cause of it. Like what our Prime Minister said during the UNGA, “This present war against the terrorist will not end until the root causes are found and removed and hearts and minds are won”.

Malaysia believes that to defeat the positive ideologies, we need a more impactful and substantive counter measures by extensively promoting peace and mutual respect amongst the nations.

10. Along that line, the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO just celebrated **Malaysia UNESCO Day 2018** on the 29th and 30th September, emphasizing on “*Youth for Change*” as its theme. It was a timely effort to bring youth on board, share their thoughts and inspire them to become future leaders. For record, Malaysia is the only country that celebrates “UNESCO Day” as a proliferation of its commitment towards UNESCO’s goals and missions.

11. We believe that strong and effective **National Commissions** are invaluable assets for UNESCO, particularly towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals at country level. Thus, a clear channel

for the National Commissions to contribute more actively to UNESCO's Strategic Reform would be very beneficial.

12. In concluding, I wish to re-state Malaysia's strong commitment and hope that all of us can work together relentlessly in carrying out our respective obligations to enable this organization to fulfil its role and expectations.

13. Let me close my speech by a quotation from Prophet Muhammad who once said; "The best amongst you are those who benefit others."

Thank you.

Shukran.

Xie Xie.