

**Statement by Mr. Moin ul Haque, Ambassador/Permanent Delegate
of Pakistan at the 205th Session of UNESCO Executive Board
09 October 2018**

**Mr. President
Chairperson of the General Conference
Madam Director General
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me start by expressing our appreciation to you Mr. President and the Bureau members for preparing this important Session in a comprehensive and professional manner.

At the outset, my delegation would like to convey our deepest condolences on the loss of so many precious lives in the recent earthquake and Tsunami in Indonesia. We stand in solidarity with the people and the government of Indonesia in this hour of national tragedy.

Pakistan Delegation aligns itself with the joint ASPAC statement delivered by the Ambassador/Permanent Delegate of Japan on behalf of the group.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Deputy Director General and Assistant Director Generals as part of the new team of the Director General. We had the privilege of meeting them personally and listening to them in our ASPAC group. We were

impressed by their professionalism, openness and useful ideas for strengthening UNESCO's work in their respective areas.

We would also like to pay tribute to UNESCO's able staff working at Headquarters in Paris and as well as in various field offices around the world. It is seldom that we hear about these men and women, quietly working behind the scenes, many a times in challenging circumstances. Last week we had the opportunity of getting briefing from the Head of UNESCO Human Resource Bureau. A well trained and motivated staff is essential for efficiency of any organization. We were, therefore, happy to learn that the Director General was especially focusing on the wellbeing of UNESCO staff not only through institutional reforms but also through capacity building programs and other measures for improving their morale and working conditions.

Mr. President,

We had listened to the address of the Director General yesterday with great interest. We applaud her efforts for bringing a new vigor, urgency and focus to UNESCO's work. We support Director General's proposal for Strategic Transformation of UNESCO, which we believe is important to strengthen organization's operational efficiency, promote strategic partnerships and enhance its global presence while respecting its intergovernmental character. In this spirit, it is also vital to reform the CR committee in order to further streamline and strengthen its processes.

We fully agree with Madam Director General when she said yesterday that UNESCO was established to 'build global peace through moral and intellectual solidarity'. This is not just a mere statement but it has a deeper meaning. While it provides the guiding principles for UNESCO, it also places a unique responsibility on the shoulders of its membership to collectively strive for the overall wellbeing of the humanity through promotion of education, culture of tolerance, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of scientific innovations.

Mr. President,

A new government is in place in Pakistan after the general elections that took place in last July. The new government's agenda is focused on human development, bringing key reforms in the sectors of education, culture and environment. It has launched a Science Diplomacy initiative which resonates well with UNESCO's initiative in this area. In response to the Director General's message of felicitation, our new Prime Minister had reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continue working with UNESCO for achieving its ideals.

Mr. President,

This Conference hall has a unique layout, a square room with a circular format of seating. This circular design has a symbolic meaning and embodies a feeling of togetherness and a collective approach. The Executive Board is part of this important whole which is bounded together through shared values of peace, dialogue and mutual respect.

We, the current 58 members of the Board, representing a cross-section of various regional groups, carry a sacred responsibility - a responsibility to serve as a voice for those who are not represented on the Board. We must, therefore, be mindful of their interests and concerns while deliberating on critical matters. Together we can overcome many challenges, together we can reach new frontiers. Our journey for a better tomorrow will bring success by accepting this beautiful blend of diversity and togetherness.

Pakistan's dedication to UNESCO's mission of creating a just, peaceful and inclusive world remains unwavering. We will always work hand in hand with the global community to make the world better and a safer place.

Thank You.